

The West Wicklow Heritage Trail project was initiated by the Baltinglass Municipal District office of Wicklow County Council in order to promote tourism in the area. Production was co-ordinated by the Heritage Office of Wicklow County Council in association with ActiveMe Tourism and Heritage Services and the local community. Special thanks to Donal McDonnell, Paul Gorry and Chris Lawlor for their valuable contributions to the content.

Stratford-on-Slaney is a small village with a big industrial history. Built by Edward Stratford in 1780 as a planned village to house the workers of the local mill and factory, this once prosperous town played an important role in the cotton & linen industry. The distinctive planned roads survive today an octagonal space at one end and a circus space at the other.



B

The picturesque village of Grangecon with strong links with the racehorse industry, owes its origins to the Cistercian monks of Baltinglass Abbey. It started out as a 'grange' or outlier farm and corn-mill for the 12th century Cistercian Abbey nearby and in Irish it is 'Grainseach Choinn' or Granary of the Hound. In the 19th century, the now disused Salins-Tullow railway line stopped at the village.



A



7

Knickeen Ogham Stone

Knickeen Ogham Stone, with its early Christian inscription stands in a forest clearing near the Glen of Imaal, a popular walking area for the Wicklow Mountains. Ogham is the earliest form of writing in Ireland dating back to the early Christian era. This Ogham Stone has been dated to between 400-550AD and is 2.3m in height, making it a quite imposing monolith.



8

Donard

Just north of the Glen of Imaal is the historic village of Donard, named from the Irish Dún Ard which means High Fort. As well as strong associations with the 1798 rebellion, Donard has its origins as a monastic settlement and has ruins of a medieval church along with ancient grave slabs in the cemetery and an Ogham Stone in centre of the village. Lugnaquilla at 925m, can be accessed near the village.



9

The Piper's Stones

Located in the townland of Athgreany Pipers Stones is a large Bronze Age stone circle. Originally containing up to 29 stones in a circle, it had a large outlier stone. This stone represents the piper who played for the unfortunate dancers who are now petrified in stone for violating the holy day.

West Wicklow Heritage Trail

For more about Our Wicklow Heritage visit
www.countywicklowheritage.org



1

Hollywood

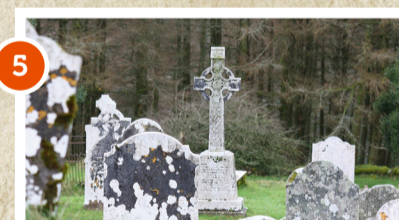
The village of Hollywood has a strong association with St. Kevin of Glendalough, whose pilgrims have passed through this village and surrounds over many centuries. The earliest mention of a church at Hollywood is found in a 13th century charter. Close to the town are two caves known as St Kevin's Cave and St Kevin's Bed.



4

Baltinglass

Baltinglass Heritage Town and the surrounding area is a rich archaeological landscape with several historical sites including the 12th century Cistercian Abbey on the banks of the River Slaney, the fine 19th century architectural streetscape in the town, the old courthouse and Sam MacAllister statue. An interpretation board outside the library is a great source of local information and history.



5

Kilranelagh Graveyard

Kilranelagh Graveyard includes the cemetery, the foundations of a church, St Brigid's holy well, a couple of small stone crosses, several interesting grave slabs, including the grave of Sam MacAllister, and a pair of unusual upright stones known as the Gates of Heaven. Nearby, to the north lie Brusselstown and Spinian's Hillforts complex, the largest in Ireland.



2

Dunlavin

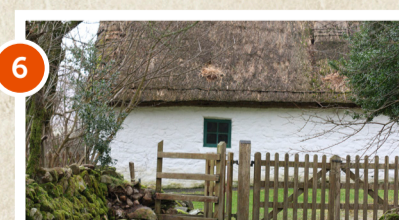
Founded in the 1650s by the Bulkely family from Cheshire, the town of Dunlavin has an exceptional high quality Palladian style market house in its centre which was later used as a courthouse and more recently as a library. Dunlavin has associations with the 1798 rising when thirty five men were executed in the Fair Green.



3

Castleruddery Stone Circle

Castleruddery gets its name from its original Irish name Caislean a Ridine meaning the castle of the Knight. The townland contains the remains of an impressive Bronze Age (2500-500BC) stone circle and a defensive motte built in the late 12th century after the Norman invasion of Ireland.



6

Dwyer MacAllister Cottage

Dwyer-McAllister cottage nestles in the shade of Kaedeon Mountain at the top of a grassy lane off the Donard to Rathdangan road in Co. Wicklow. This thatched cottage is associated with the 1798 Rebellion hero Michael O'Dwyer and is filled with furniture and memorabilia from that era.

West Wicklow Heritage Trail

80km / 50 miles / Full Day

The county of Wicklow is naturally divided by the granite expanse of the Wicklow Mountains, the largest continuous upland region in Ireland which occupies much of the centre of the county.

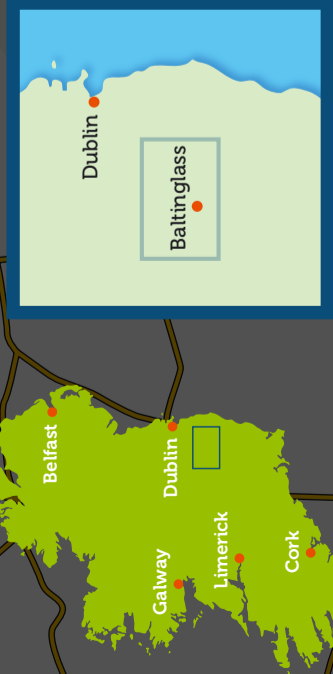
West of the mountains, owing in part to its topography and remoteness, there survives a highly scenic natural landscape which contains a wealth of archaeological and historical sites, towns and villages. Using Balinglass as the central point, two heritage trails have been developed to the north and to the south of the town as suggested driving and/or cycling routes to explore this area.

For West Wicklow, highlights include the prehistoric hillforts centred around Balinglass (the largest such complex in Ireland), the Piper Stones, Castleruddery Stone Circle, The Cistercian Abbey of Balinglass, 1798 associations at Kilranelagh Graveyard and Dwyer McAllister Cottage as well as the rich biodiversity of the River Slaney Special Area of Conservation and the remote flanks of Wicklow Mountains National Park at the Glen of Imaal making this a fascinating part of Wicklow to visit and discover.

If you enjoy this guide, pick up the South West Wicklow Heritage Trail and the Blessington Lakeside Heritage Trail and continue exploring West Wicklow. For more about visiting county Wicklow see www.visitwicklow.ie, for more about our Wicklow heritage visit www.countywicklowheritage.org

Legend

- West Wicklow Heritage Trail
- Optional detour
- St. Kevin's Way Walking Trail
- Blessington Lakes Heritage Trail
- Wicklow Way
- 1 Heritage Trail Place of Interest
- ⊙ Other Heritage Sites
- ▲ Mountain Peak
- Town/Village
- ✚ Walking Area



0 1 2 3 4 5

Kilometres

